

Based on the deliberations in the meetings and inputs received from the State Governments as well as from various quarters a series of measures have been taken:

(i) The allocation of foodgrains under TPDS to BPL families has been doubled for 10 kg. to 20 Kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families have been maintained at the same level at economic cost. Additional quantities of wheat and rice, if demanded by States/UTs are considered subject to availability and at economic cost.

(ii) The allocation of levy sugar has been increased to 700 gms. per head per month w.e.f. 1.1.2000 in case of N.E. States and hilly States and the population base for making allocation of levy sugar to States/UTs has been changed from 1.1.1991 to projected population as on 1.3.1999 w.e.f. 1.3.2000. Further the income tax payees and their families have been excluded for the purview of PDS sugar w.e.f. 1.7.2000.

(iii) State Governments have been asked to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involving Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in implementation of PDS. A model Citizens' Charter for PDS has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption with the objection to bring in greater transparency and accountability in the system so that subsidised commodities reach the targeted beneficiaries efficiently.

Offtake of food articles for distribution through PDS

2069. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the offtake of the food articles distributing through PDS has increased after the revision of PDS prices after this year's budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance the offtake; and

(d) the details regarding the offtake from 1995-96 to 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has reduced the Central Issue Prices (C.I.P.) of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from 25.7.2000.

(d) Details regarding the offtake of rice and wheat under Public Distribution System (PDS)/TPDS from 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (April, 2000 to June, 2000) are as under:—

Fig. in Lakh tonnes

Year	Offtake (P)	
	Rice	Wheat
1995-96	93.33	51.59
1996-97	110.14	83.70
1997-98	97.65	69.39
1998-99	106.21	78.24
1999-2000	108.20	48.55
2000-2001	18.10	6.79
(April, 2000-June, 2000)		

(P) Provisional

Poor quality of PDS items supplied by FCI

2070. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of PDS items supplied by FCI to various States has been objected by several State Governments in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether wheat and rice which have been supplied to State Governments have been rejected by stating unfit for human